

# SCHUMER REPORT

## Stringent Requirements Prevent Over Half of All Veterans Afflicted with PTSD from Getting Treatment

U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer today announced that he is introducing legislation that will lower the burdensome threshold that veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars have to meet to receive treatment for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

The stringent regulations and burden-of-proof requirements present a significant barrier to treatment for service members suffering from mental health disorders that already carry a great stigma. Since October 2001, about 1.8 million U.S. troops nationally, and 66,000 from Upstate New York, have deployed to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, with many exposed to prolonged periods of combat-related stress or traumatic events. Early evidence suggests that the psychological toll of the deployments may be disproportionately high compared with physical injuries. According to a study from the RAND corporation, the nation's largest independent health policy research program, nearly 20 percent of military service members who have returned from Iraq and Afghanistan report symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or major depression, and only half of those afflicted have sought treatment. Among those who do seek help for PTSD or major depression, only about half receive treatment because of the many barriers preventing them from getting the treatment and support they need.

The COMBAT PTSD Act would ensure that more service members afflicted with PTSD would be able to receive treatment. This is especially relevant in New York. In total, New York has the fourth largest veteran population in the country and has sent over 70,000 troops to Iraq and Afghanistan. There are almost 12,000 New York service members currently deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan theatres of combat.

Here is how the numbers break down across the state:

### Capital Region

There are 82,250 veterans living in the Capital Region, approximately 5,700 of which served in Iraq or Afghanistan. There are 900 Central New York service members currently deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

County	Currently Deployed in Iraq or Afghanistan	Ever Deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan	Total Veterans
Albany	240	1,470	21,180
Fulton	60	360	5,160
Montgomery	50	320	4,520
Rensselaer	140	840	11,990
Saratoga	210	1,250	18,010
Schenectady	140	850	12,250

<b>Schoharie</b>	30	210	3,030
<b>Washington</b>	70	430	6,110
<b>Capital Region Total</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>5,730</b>	<b>82,250</b>

### **Central New York**

There are 79,200 veterans living in Central New York, approximately 5,500 of which served in Iraq or Afghanistan. There are 900 Central New York service members currently deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

<b>County</b>	<b>Currently Deployed in Iraq or Afghanistan</b>	<b>Ever Deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan</b>	<b>Total Veterans</b>
<b>Cayuga</b>	80	490	7,010
<b>Cortland</b>	40	250	3,600
<b>Madison</b>	60	390	5,590
<b>Oneida</b>	230	1,420	20,450
<b>Onondaga</b>	360	2,210	31,740
<b>Oswego</b>	120	750	10,810
<b>Central New York Total</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>5,520</b>	<b>79,200</b>

### **Hudson Valley**

There are 140,810 veterans living in the Hudson Valley, approximately 9,800 of which served in Iraq or Afghanistan. There are 1,600 Hudson Valley service members currently deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

<b>County</b>	<b>Currently Deployed in Iraq or Afghanistan</b>	<b>Ever Deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan</b>	<b>Total Veterans</b>
<b>Columbia</b>	70	410	5,820
<b>Dutchess</b>	240	1,460	20,990
<b>Greene</b>	50	310	4,480
<b>Orange</b>	280	1,700	24,390
<b>Putnam</b>	80	470	6,740
<b>Rockland</b>	160	990	14,290
<b>Sullivan</b>	70	400	5,800
<b>Ulster</b>	160	960	13,740
<b>Westchester</b>	510	3,100	44,570
<b>Hudson Valley Total</b>	<b>1,610</b>	<b>9,810</b>	<b>140,810</b>

## North Country

There are 386,670 veterans living in the North Country, approximately 26,900 of which served in Iraq or Afghanistan. There are 4,400 North Country service members currently deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

County	Currently Deployed in Iraq or Afghanistan	Ever Deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan	Total Veterans
Clinton	80	500	7,220
Essex	50	300	4,280
Franklin	50	290	4,220
Hamilton	10	50	670
Herkimer	70	430	6,200
Jefferson	130	800	11,540
Lewis	30	170	2,480
St. Lawrence	110	660	9,530
Warren	80	480	6,820
<b>North Country Total</b>	<b>4,410</b>	<b>26,930</b>	<b>386,670</b>

## Rochester-Finger Lakes Region

There are 84,600 veterans living in the Rochester-Finger Lakes Region, approximately 5,900 of which served in Iraq or Afghanistan. There are 960 Rochester-Finger Lakes Region service members currently deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

County	Currently Deployed in Iraq or Afghanistan	Ever Deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan	Total Veterans
Livingston	60	370	5,330
Monroe	580	3,540	50,770
Ontario	100	590	8,400
Schuyler	20	140	1,970
Seneca	30	200	2,900
Tompkins	60	370	5,300
Wayne	90	530	7,630
Yates	30	160	2,310
<b>Rochester-Finger Lakes Total</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>5,890</b>	<b>84,610</b>

## Southern Tier

There are 57,030 veterans living in the Southern Tier, approximately 4,000 of which served in Iraq or Afghanistan. There are 650 Southern Tier service members currently deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

County	Currently Deployed in Iraq or Afghanistan	Ever Deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan	Total Veterans
<b>Allegany</b>	50	320	4,640
<b>Broome</b>	180	1,110	15,990
<b>Chemung</b>	100	580	8,360
<b>Chenango</b>	60	340	4,890
<b>Delaware</b>	50	300	4,380
<b>Otsego</b>	60	350	4,960
<b>Steuben</b>	100	630	8,990
<b>Tioga</b>	60	340	4,830
<b>Southern Tier Total</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>3,970</b>	<b>57,030</b>

## Western New York

There are 125,270 veterans living in the Western New York, approximately 8,700 of which served in Iraq or Afghanistan. There are 1,400 Western New York service members currently deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

County	Currently Deployed in Iraq or Afghanistan	Ever Deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan	Total Veterans
<b>Cattaraugus</b>	90	570	8,220
<b>Chautauqua</b>	140	840	12,040
<b>Erie</b>	850	5,170	74,270
<b>Genesee</b>	60	360	5,210
<b>Niagara</b>	210	1,280	18,390
<b>Orleans</b>	40	250	3,520
<b>Wyoming</b>	40	250	3,630
<b>Western New York Total</b>	<b>1,430</b>	<b>8,720</b>	<b>125,270</b>

*\*Data from VA VetPop 2007, the NYS Division of Veterans Affairs, and the RAND Center for Military Health policy Research.*